

## Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OES-03 COA-01 EB-07 COME-00 /068 W

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R 271745Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7166

INFO AMEMBSSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USDOCOSOUTH

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

USNMR SHAPE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, GR, TU, NO

SUBJECT: AEGEAN ISSUE

1. GREEK PRESS DIRECTED ITS ATTENTION OVER WEEKEND TO  
ACTIVITIES OF NORWEGIAN SEISMIC RESEARCH SHIP "LONGVA"  
(ANKARA 475) WHICH HAS BEEN CHARTERED BY TURKISH  
GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT SURVEY ITS BEHALF.  
AKROPOLIS JANUARY 25 REPORTED THAT ACCORDING TO NORWEGIAN  
EMBASSY ATHENS SHIP WOULD NOT OPERATE IN "CONTESTED AREA"  
OF THE AEGEAN. KATHIMERINI NEXT DAY PRINTED TEXT OF  
PURPORTED RESPONSE WHICH A "HIGH OFFICIAL OF NORWEGIAN  
EMBASSY" MADE TO JOURNALISTS' QUESTIONS ON THE TOPIC:  
QUOTE. THE OWNER OF THE LONGVA HAS CONTRACTED WITH THE  
TURKISH GOVERNMENT FOR SEISMOLOGICAL RESEARCH AIMED AT  
IDENTIFYING PETROLEUM BEARING DEPOSITS IN THE AEGEAN AND  
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THE BLACK SEA. THERE IS, HOWEVER, AN EXPLICIT CLAUSE IN

THAT CONTRACT THAT THE NORWEGIAN SHIP SHALL NOT PERFORM RESEARCH EITHER IN GREEK WATERS OR IN DISPUTED AREAS OF THE AEGEAN. THE CONTRACT IS OF THREE MONTHS DURATION AND IT IS NOT KNOWN IF IT WILL BE RENEWED. END QUOTE.

3. COMMENT. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION JANUARY 27, NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR CORRABORATED THAT PRESS REPORTS OF HIS EMBASSY'S STATEMENT REGARDING THE LONGVA WERE GENERALLY ACCURATE. HOWEVER, HE SAID HE WAS NOT SURE SPECIFIC CLAUSE PROSCRIBING RESERACH IN SENSITIVE AREAS WAS WRITTEN INTO THE CONTRACT WLTHOUGH THE PARTIES TO THE CONTRACT CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THIS TO BE THE CASE.

3. WHILE SOME PAPERS MAKE NO MENTION OF THE LONGVA'S ITINERARY, OTHERS REPORT THAT SHE WAS SLATED TO TRAVEL TO THE BLACK SEA SUBSEQUENT TO HER DEPARTURE FROM TURKISH PORT OF MERSIN LATE LAST WEEK. ELEFTHEROS COSMOS JANUARY 25 REPORTED THERE NOW PLANS ON PART OF TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO EMPLOY AN UNNAMED ROMANIAN SHIP FOR SEISMIC STUDIES IN THE AEGEAN AND SAID MATTER UNDER DISCUSSION BETWEEN TURKEY AND ROMANIA. FOLLOWING DAY, HOWEVER, PRESS CARRIED DENIAL OF THIS REPORT ISSUED BY ROMANIAN EMBASSY SPOKESMAN WHO STATED THAT ROMANIA DOES NOT EVEN POSSESS SUCH SPECIALIZED VESSELS. ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR TOOK DCM ASIDE AT AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION JAN. 27 TO MAKE SAME POINT.

4. SEVERAL WEEKEND PAPERS SUGGEST THAT USG FAVOR JOINT GREEK-TURKISH COOPERATION DIRECTED TOWARDS EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION OF AEGEAN PETROLEUM DEPOSITS. ELLINIKON MELLON JANUARY 26 WENT FURTHER THAN OTHER PAPERS BY ALLEGING THAT USG HAD OFFERED ITS "GOOD OFFICES" IN THIS RESPECT AND WAS WILLING TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO A GREEK-TURKISH-AMERICAN CONSORTIUM WHICH WOULD CARRY OUT RESERACH AND POSSIBLE EXPLOITATION OF THE "UNDERSEA WEALTH OF THE AEGEAN."  
KUBISCH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TERRITORIAL SEA LIMIT, PRESS COMMENTS, EXPLORATION, PETROLEUM, AGEAN SEA, CONTRACTS  
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